

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02738 131953 Z

67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

SAJ-01 EB-11 STR-08 AGR-20 NIC-01 COME-00 RSR-01 /132 W  
----- 042908

R 131615 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7157

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2738

FOR AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PINT, UR

SUBJ: FOOD RATIONING IN USSR

REF: A. MOSCOW 2656 B. STATE 43786

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE NOT YET OBSERVED RATIONING OF FOOD SHORTAGES DURING TRAVELS OUTSIDE MOSCOW (LIMITED BY SOVIET TRAVEL CONTROLS), INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT THESE EXIST TO SOME EXTENT. AMONG AREAS WHICH SEEM TO BE AFFECTED ARE VOLGA RIVER REGION FROM GORKIY TO ASTRAKHAN AND SOME OUTLYING PARTY OF MOSCOW OBLAST. END SUMMARY.

2. SEMI- OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT RATIONING NOW IN EFFECT IN VOLGA AREA WAS PROVIDED IN MOSCOW ZNANIY SOCIETY LECTURE MARCH 11 WHEN SPEAKER STATED, IN REPLY TO QUESTION, THAT "CARD SYSTEM" NOW BEING USED THERE (REFTEL A). HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BEING IN GORKIY WHERE HE OBSERVED POTATOES AND BUTTER BEING RATIONED. SYSTEM, HE SAID, WAS INSTITUTED TO CONTROL SUPPLY SITUATION. OTHER REPORTS, SOME OF WHICH ATTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN ONE SOURCE, INDICATE THAT POTATO RATIONING OCCURRED EARLIER IN ASTRAKHAN (PRESENT SITUATION THERE NOT KNOWN) AND THAT  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02738 131953 Z

BUTTER IS SHORT SUPPLY IN VOLGOGRAD REGION.

3. SOVIET SOURCES IN MOSCOW GENERALLY ACCEPT REPORTS OF RATIONING AS TRUE, SOME OF THEM CITING FRIENDS WHO HAVE TRAVELED AS PROVIDING CONFIRMATION. ONE SOURCE WHO COMMUTES TO MOSCOW FROM SOUTH OF PODOLSK ON REGULAR BASIS REPORTS TRAINS FROM SOUTHERN AREAS OF MOSCOW OBLAST FULL OF PEOPLE TRAVELING TO MOSCOW TO PURCHASE FOOD ITEMS WHICH ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY WHERE THEY LIVE. ON RETURN TRIP IN EVENING, TRAVELERS ARE REPORTEDLY LADEN DOWN WITH LARGE SUPPLIES OF STAPLES- POTATOES, CABBAGE, DAIRY PRODUCTS, ETC. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, MOSCOW CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS ISSUED UNPUBLISHED INSTRUCTION TO TRADING ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTING THAT SALES PERSONNEL NOT SELL LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD STAPLES TO ANY SINGLE INDIVIDUAL.

4. AS TO BE EXPECTED, FOOD SUPPLIED IN MOSCOW SEEM ADEQUATE. RECENT VISIT TO CENTRAL KOLKHOZ MARKET REVEALED SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF POTATOES ( SMALL IN SIZE) BEING SOLD AT 40 KOPEKS PER KILO. DURING SAME VISIT, MEAT SUPPLY WAS BETTER THAN USUAL FOR WINTER PERIOD , PERHAPS INDICATING INCREASED SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AS RESULT OF SHORTAGE OF FODDER. FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN MARKET WERE IN SHORTER SUPPLY THAN USUAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR, APPARENTLY AS RESULT OF CRACKDOWN IN GEORGIA ON PEASANTS WHO NORMALLY BRING THEIR PRODUCE TO MOSCOW FOR SALE IN MARKETS.

5. LENINGRAD ADVANCE PARTY ADMINOFF REPORTED ON VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK THAT THERE IS ALSO MORE MEAT THERE THAN USUAL BUT SHORTAGE OF MILK PRODUCTS BECAUSE COWS ARE BEING KILLED FOR LACK OF FODDER. REGULATION SIZE OF ROLLS HAS CLEARLY BEEN REDUCED. DACHA AREA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS COTTAGE CHEESE ( TVOROG) BUT NOT WAS TO BE FOUND THERE ON RECENT TRIP. SIMILARLY, RECENT TRIP TO BYBORG FOUND ONLY ONE PIECE OF BONY PORK AND THREE RABBITS IN COLLECTIVE FARM MARKET.

6. EMBASSY ASSISTANT AGRICULTURE ATTACHE CHECKED SEVERAL STATE OUTLETS IN KHARKOV ON MARCH 5 AND IN KRASNODAR ON MARCH

7. CHEESE, WHITE BREAD, RICE AND MACARONI SUPPLIES WERE ADEQUATE. MEAT SUPPLIES WERE VERY POOR WITH ONLY SAUSAGE, SMOKED BACON, SALT PORK, PIG FAT, PIGS' FEET AND SIMILAR ITEMS AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE QUANTITIES. DECENT BEEF AND PORK WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02738 131953 Z

VIRTUALLY ABSENT. MILK AND PARTICULARLY EGGS SEEMED TO BE

AVAILABLE. MARGARINE ALSO ON SALE. VEGTABLES WERE ALSO

IN POOR SUPPLY WITH EVEN THE USUAL ONIONS, BEETS, AND CARROTS,  
NOT READILY AVAILABLE AND THAT WHICH ON SALE WAS OF POOR  
QUALITY. A VERY FEW POTATOES ( FAIR QUALITY) WERE SEEN BUT NO  
CABBAGE . APPLES ( POOR QUALITY) ONLY FRUIT SEEN IN STORES.  
NEVERTHELESS, NO SIGNS OF LONG LINES OR CONSUMER CONCERN WERE  
OBSERVED IN OREL, KHARKOV, ROSTOV- ON- THE- DON, KRASNODAR,  
PYATIGORSK  
OR MINERALNYE VODY VISITED DURING PERIOD MARCH 5 THROUGH 9.

9. COMMENT: WHILE INFORMATION REMAINS FRAGMENTARY, BASIS  
EXISTS FOR ASSERTION THAT FOOD SHORTAGES IN SOME REGIONS HAVE  
LED TO RATIONING. HOWEVER, FULL EXTENT OF THESE SHORTAGES IS STILL  
DIFFICULT TO ASSESS, AND AUTHORITIES, BY INSTITUTING RATIONING,  
APPEAR DETERMINED TO ALLEVIATE SITUATION BY PREVENTING HOARDING.  
SOVIET TRAVEL CONTROLS HAVE FRUSTRATED SEVERAL RECENT ATTEMPTS  
BY EMBASSY OFFICERS TO TRAVEL TO REGIONS WHERE SHORTAGES  
REPORTED.

EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED REGISTRATION OF TRAVEL TO VOLOGRAD AND  
ASTRAKHAN FOR PERIOD MARCH 18-22. ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO VISIT  
OTHER AREAS ALONG VOLGA FOLLOWING WEEK.  
DUBS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MOSCOW02738  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730325/aaaahnhj.tel  
**Line Count:** 142  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 MOSCOW 2656, 73 STATE 43786  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** smithrj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by smithrj>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971120  
**Subject:** FOOD RATIONING IN USSR  
**TAGS:** EAGR, PINT, UR  
**To:** EUR  
MUNICH  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005